

Ind. County Merom-Sullivan - 4768

INDIANA ROOM

Vigo County Public Library 1816-1966

MEROM-SULLIVAN COUNTY SESQUICENTENNIAL

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UNION CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
MEROM, INDIANA

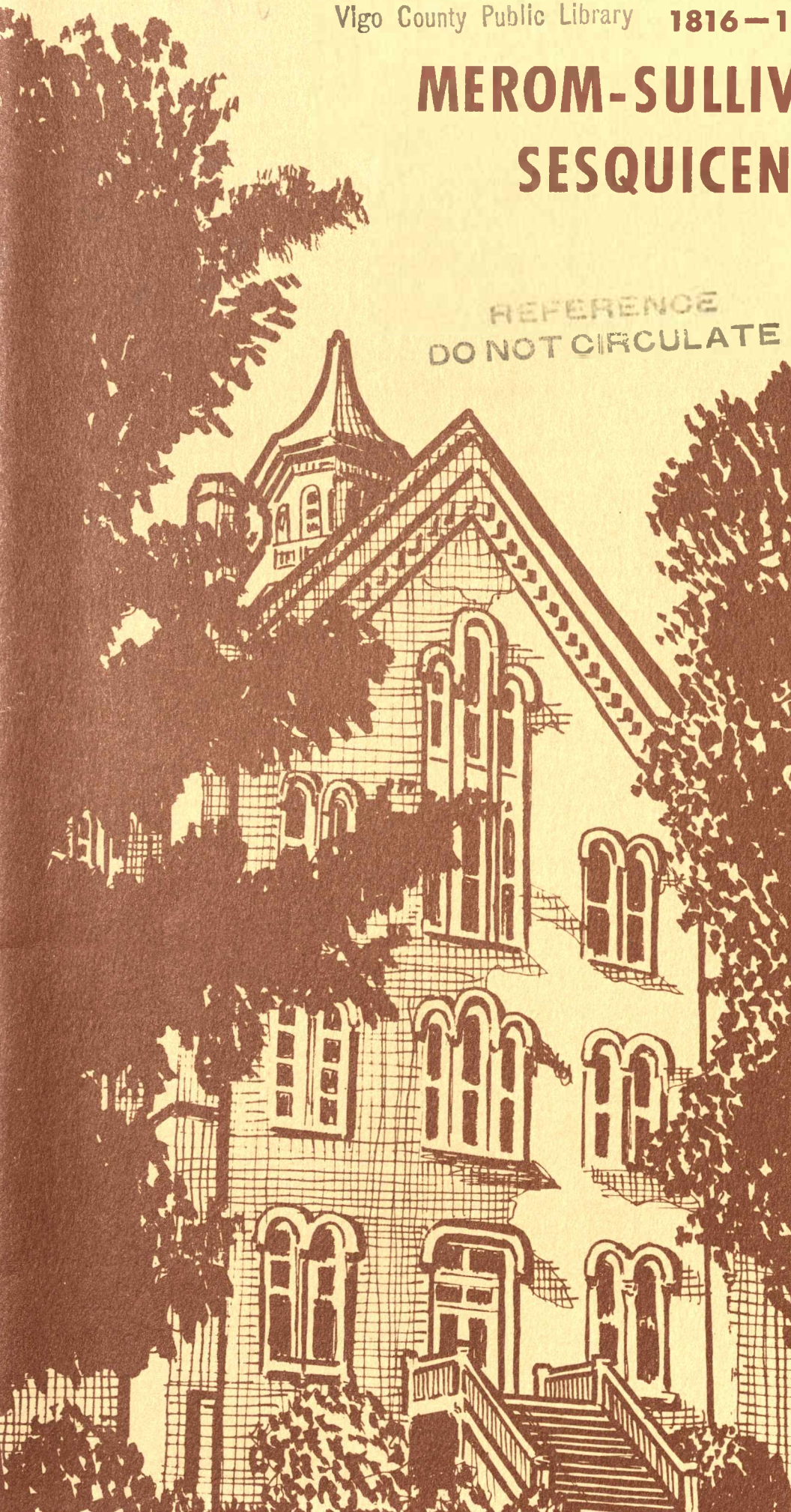
*Like a queen of grace and honor,
Seated on her royal throne,
With her subjects paying homage
To the one they're proud to own;
So art thou, O queen of learning;
And thy subjects all agree
Thou art worthy of our homage,
True and trusted U.C.C.*

*On thy matchless throne exalted
(Nature was thy architect)
Heaven's royal blue above thee,
With her floating shadows flecked;
Nature's carpets spread around thee
Nature's groves thy tapestry
Nature loves thee, Queen of learning;
And we love thee U.C.C.*

*High on Merom Bluffs enthroned,
Seen and honored far with joy;
Eastward stretches Indiana,
West the fields of Illinois;
At thy feet the winding Wabash,
Forest fringed with vine and tree;
What could Nature more to honor
And exalt thee, U.C.C.?*

*But for what thou'st done we love thee,
More than for thy beauties rare;
Sacred are thy walks and shade trees
For our fathers wandered there;
Half a century hath blest thee,
And thy name shall ever be
Writ in golden adoration
On our hearts, old U.C.C.*

by DR. O. B. WHITAKER
President 1906-1910





In August, 1870, two young brothers, Medford B. Wilson and Luke Wilson, came to Sullivan from their home town of Palestine, Illinois, and with \$5,000.00 as their capital organized the first bank in Sullivan County. This bank was called the "Sullivan County Bank of Wilson Brothers." It was located on the west side of the Public Square, in the rear of a dry goods store, where now stands the Sherman Building. The equipment of the bank then consisted of an iron safe, opened with a large brass key, a few chairs and counter.

Through mergers and rechartering the name was changed to Sullivan State Bank in August, 1897. Mr. C. J. Sherman was one of the incorporating stockholders of the Sullivan State Bank and served as its president from 1916 until his death in 1924. He was the founder of the C. J. Sherman Educational Fund, a charitable trust now administered by the Sullivan State Bank, as Trustee, and was Benefactor of the Mary Sherman Hospital.

Through the succeeding years from 1870 to the present time, this bank has enjoyed the confidence of the public in all its dealings. For nearly a century of continued service, it has maintained that high standard of integrity so essential to its existence. It has never lost a dollar for any depositor, and through these many years of its activity, the aim has been to merit the confidence reposed by offering service, safety and absolute security.

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"The Bank that Makes Things Happen"

1816—1966

MEROM-SULLIVAN COUNTY SESQUICENTENNIAL

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and
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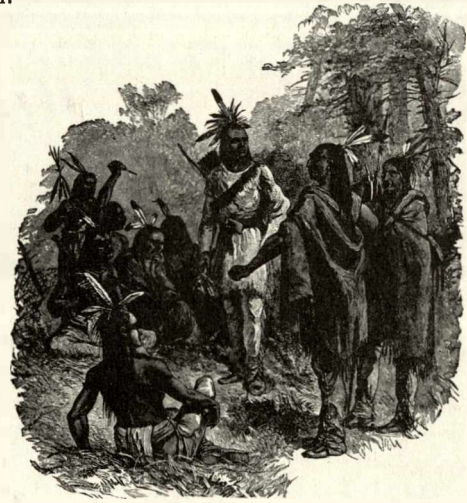
*Backed by all the people of Merom
and Sullivan County*

A Part of Indiana Sesquicentennial Celebration

Celebration—May 28-29-30
Historic Merom Bluff Park

HISTORICAL SKETCH SULLIVAN COUNTY

Three cultures fought for ascendancy in the formation of what became known as the Northwest Territory of early American history. The French and the English fought for control, each opposed by the Indians and each striving to use the Indians against the other. Prior to the Revolutionary War, the Colony of Virginia sent George Rogers Clark, commanding a band of soldiers, to make the new land safe for colony expansion. He succeeded in capturing Vincennes, losing it and taking it the second time. His accomplishments made secure the legal rights of the new republic that came into being following the victory of the colonies over Great Britain.



As early as 1742 a treaty with the Indians gave the white man legal claim to a foothold, a nucleus of land surrounding Vincennes. This has been referred to in history as the "Old Purchase." Starting at Pointe Coupee one mile north of the mouth of Busseron Creek, a line running east by 12 degrees south to White River, following White River to where it flows into the Wabash and north to the point of beginning. Limited land area on the Illinois side of the Wabash was also included. The boundary line (accepting the Wabash as the western boundary) is important in the early development of our state and county history. General Harrison in 1803 concluded a treaty with the Indians confirming these boundaries. Likewise, in 1809 he worked out a treaty with the Indians for a new block of land, adjoining the one just described on the north boundary. This tract is described by the Wabash on the west to a point west of Hillsdale north of Terre Haute, thence in a southeasterly direction to the White River. And this is referred to in the early history as the "New Purchase." This is important to the people of Sullivan County because this "New Purchase" became Sullivan County by enactment of the State Legislature. The area comprised parts of Vermillion, Parke, Putnam, Owen, Clay, Greene counties, and all of Vigo and Sullivan as they exist today. The above action of the state legislature became official December 30, 1816. Legislative action approved December 21,

During the depression a group of farmers with vision banded together to form the Sullivan Co. Farm Bureau Cooperative Ass'n. The purpose, as stated in the constitution, was to "engage in activities connected with marketing, selling, and utilization of farm products produced." The Corporation was formed Oct. 24, 1932.

The incorporators were John Curry, Delbert Freeze, Homer Arnett, Gault Pleasant, Morris Unger, Guy Wolfe, Lang McCammon, Cecil Johnson, Immanuel Hinds, J. P. Johnson, J. Lynn Thomas and W. S. Stockdale.

J. Lynn Thomas was the first manager of the first store which was at the present location in Sullivan. Since that time the Co-op has grown and now has a net worth in excess of one million dollars with elevators at Merom, New Lebanon and Shelburn and the Farm Store and Bulk Oil and Gas plant at Sullivan.

The present board is Steve Reid, Chairman; Bill McCammon, V. Chairman; Floyd Willis, Burnett Carrithers, Robert Medsker, Tom Taylor, Carl C. Knotts, Bernard Horton, Kenneth McKinney, Floyd Nesty, Treasurer and General Manager and Garland Winters, Secretary.

Sullivan County Farm Bureau Cooperative Ass'n, Inc.

16 N. Main St.

Sullivan, Indiana

1818, created Owen County; January 21, 1818, Vigo County; February 12, 1825, Clay County; January 5, 1821, Green County. These actions by the legislature reduced Sullivan to its present limits. Sullivan could take some comfort in that the north boundary of the "Old Purchase" was moved south at a cost to Knox County. This final action was contested by Knox County, but to no avail.

The movement of people into what later became the present limits of Sullivan County seemed to be more noticable at the southern boundaries. And here was a rather strong French influence. The early settlers in the south part of the county are said to have constructed a number of block houses, or forts. These were in addition to their own family cabins. These structures were square, built out of the strongest timbers possible, with an extended second story enabling the defenders to fire down upon the attackers. There are records of this same situation prevailing in Turman Township.

Sullivan County, as we know it today, came into being by Legislative enactment approved December 30, 1816 and to become effective on and after January 15, 1817. The Legislature also authorized a commission to select a County Seat, the commission to report a decision in February, 1817. It was also designated that the house of James Sproul in Carlisle should be the headquarters for transaction of all county business, pending the final selection of a permanent seat and construction of necessary public facilities. Sometime in 1819 Merom became the county seat in fact.

The stage route—The Old Harrison Trail—from Terre Haute to Vincennes passed through Merom. One of the reasons that it was selected as the county seat. At any rate it was not long until there was rail connection between Terre Haute and Vincennes through the central part of the county. This gave rise to increased agitation for a more central location for the county seat. It is not surprising that the legislature in time took note of this fact and that on January 20, 1830 it authorized the appointment of a special commission to act on the matter of relocation. Sec. 7 of their enactment stipulated that the Sheriff of Sullivan County should within fifteen days of 1st March 1830 "notify the Commissioners named in



Sullivan Oliver Company was established by Lex McKee who came to Sullivan from Sandborn, Indiana, March 3, 1947, where he had been a barber for twenty-three years.

The only building available at that time was a vacant Filling Station at 212 Section Street. After a short time this location became too small for the growing business, so it was moved to the present location north of town on Road 41.

He now conducts the business in partnership with his son and wife Marguerite, and in addition employes seven full time employees and one part time.

SULLIVAN OLIVER COMPANY

Sullivan, Indiana



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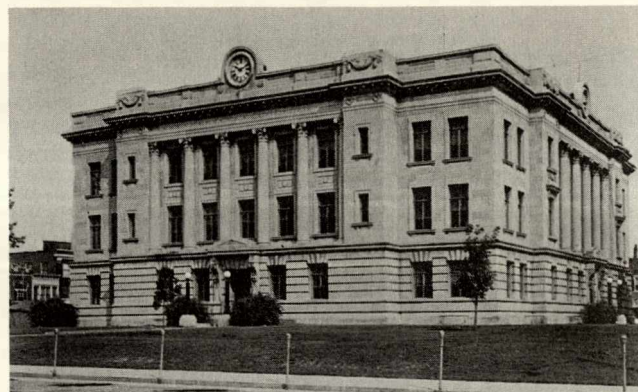
106 East Washington

Phone 268-4934

On January 1, 1934, Everett "Doc" Williams and Teal Whitaker moved into the present location and operated a general repair garage. Teal Whitaker bought the business as sole owner, and is still operating in the same location after more than 32 years.

In May 1934, Mr. Whitaker signed a contract with Olds Div. of General Motors as well as with General Motors Truck and Coach Co. In 1936 he also signed with Willys Overland but this only lasted for a year. He then signed with Studebaker in 1937. Late in 1937 he also contracted with Cadillac Div. of General Motors. He represented Olds, Cadillac, G.M.C. Trucks, and Studebaker until 1948, at which time he cancelled with Studebaker. He remained the Olds, Cadillac, G.M.C. Truck dealer until 1964 at which time Cadillac was cancelled and Buick and Pontiac was added.

Mr. Whitaker is still the local representative for Buick, Olds, Pontiac and G.M.C. Truck.



the third section of this act." The only thing to report about that meeting is that no action resulted. It was probably in the 1841-1842 session of the legislature that a similar action was taken again with results favorable to those who wished to have the county seat more centrally located. The commission named Sullivan as the new county seat.

The new court house in Sullivan burned in 1850 and county records were destroyed. Many items of record which are of public interest have been lost for all time. The situation provides a missing link in our history.

The third fifty year period has brought many changes. Suffice it to say that our small home farms are rapidly disappearing and much of the labor they provided; the mining industry has a greatly reduced labor force; the number of stores, grocery and otherwise, scattered over the countryside at cross roads and in villages and towns are rapidly disappearing. Almost yesterday each community had its own schools. Now the county can boast of eleven elementary schools and three high schools. Church buildings dot the country side and are numerous in the towns and villages and very few of them are used to capacity, if at all. And now we are told that any church group that falls below a certain fixed number of members, does not qualify for trained leadership.

Sullivan County in this modern day has a sizable percent of its bread earners leaving their homes early each work day morning driving out of the county, some as many as sixty to seventy miles one way.

The men who pioneered this county and made the first fifty years of its history, reviewed here, lived simply, busily and many of them dangerously, but they left a heritage. Someone has said that history is not history until it is fifty years old. This sketch covers barely the first fifty years of one hundred and fifty. What will some historian have to say about these last fifty years?

SULLIVAN COUNTY, INDIANA

From Red Book

Indiana was admitted to Statehood in the year 1816. Sullivan County was organized January 25, 1817. Territorial Courts were first held in Carlisle. Merom was the first county seat.

The county seat was transferred to Sullivan in the year 1842, on lands dedicated to the county by Job Walls and Enoch Walls July 30, 1841.

The first Court House in Sullivan stood at the northeast corner of Court and Washington Streets, a frame building, which was destroyed by fire, together with all the county records, on the night of February 7, 1850.

The County Commissioners, Jesse Hadden, Joseph W. Wolfe and Levi Maxwell, on April 20, 1850, awarded the contract for the lumber for the new Court House to Major William C. Griffith, at 87½c per 100 feet, and for the brick (150,000) to Milburn Reed, at \$3.75 per 1000. The building contract for the new Court House was awarded to James F. Pound and Milburn Reed, for \$7800 on Oct. 25, 1850, to be completed by Jan. 1st, 1852. During the time from the destruction of the Court House the courts and county business was conducted in the Methodist church.

The Court House then built did not have the four wings or offices of the Clerk, Recorder, Auditor and Treasurer. These were added in the year 1872.

The new Court House, completed December 30, 1927, at the cost of half a million dollars.

**Total Acreage of Sullivan County
is as follows:**

Jackson Township	28095.15
Curry Township	22873.50
Fairbanks Township	25942.20
Turman Township	31396.42
Hamilton Township	39148.05
Cass Township	25031.46
Gill Township	32010.26
Jefferson Township	26179.91
Haddon Township	39845.46
In all	270522.41

Towns of the County and Date of Plats

Carlisle	June 11, 1815
Merom	1817
Sullivan	May 25, 1842
Fairbanks	February, 1850
Farmersburg	July 15, 1854
New Lebanon	February 1, 1856
Shelburn	March 18, 1857
Graysville	May 13, 1859
Pleasantville	May 3, 1866
Paxton	1870
Hymera	January 1, 1872
Hymera (formerly Pittsburgh)	January 1, 1872
Lyonton (now Cass)	October 5, 1880
Dugger	June 30, 1881
Riverton	April 7, 1881
Farnsworth	November 6, 1888

The town of Busseron was platted in the Southwest part of Haddon Township in July, 1815, but shortly abandoned.

Other abandoned towns, viz: Williamsburg and Mt. Washington, were also platted but soon abandoned.

The census of Indiana in 1800 was 45,777.

The official census of Sullivan County, as compiled by U. S. Census Bureau was:

1820	3498	1880	20336
1830	4630	1890	21877
1840	8315	1900	26005
1850	10141	1910	32439
1860	15064	1920	31630
1870	18453		

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Shortest Route

SULLIVAN

PALESTINE - ROBINSON

MR. AND MRS. HUGH THOMPSON

The Farmers State Bank of Sullivan, Sullivan, Indiana, was issued a state charter in 1955. It was opened for business August 13, 1955 as a state bank, a member of the Federal Reserve System and a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. This is a home owned bank and it has continued to grow each year. We appreciate the loyalty and support of our customers.

We were able to open a branch bank in Dugger in 1960 and a new drive-in facility on Section Street in Sullivan in April of this year. We are proud and happy to have this additional service available to our banking friends.

The directors, officers and employees wish every success for the Sullivan County Sesqui-centennial.

OFFICERS

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J. H. CROWDER

President:

E. F. SPRINGER

Vice Presidents:

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J. C. SMITH

Cashier and Assistant Trust Officer:

K. P. COOPER

Assistant Cashiers:

MARGUERITE FISHER

R. H. BILLMAN

Attorney and Assistant Trust Officer:

WENDELL TENNIS

Attorney:

JACK COCHRAN

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R. H. Crowder	Leland Phegley
J. E. Dukes	John C. Smith
C. E. Fisher	E. F. Springer
Wendell Tennis	

FARMERS STATE BANK SULLIVAN, INDIANA

The first railroad through Sullivan County known as the Evansville and Crawfordsville Railroad (now a part of the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad) was begun in 1853 and completed in 1854 and in 1856 ran one mail train North and South each day and a freight train North on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and South Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

The Town of Sullivan was surveyed for the County Seat in the year 1842 to be located within one and one-half miles of the geographical center of the County. It was first named Benton but the commissioners appointed to locate the County Seat learned there was already a town in Indiana by that name, selected the name Sullivan in honor of a General of the Revolution, and the name Sullivan remains.

TOWNSHIPS OF SULLIVAN COUNTY

There are nine Townships in Sullivan County, three in a row with rows running north and south. Fairbanks, Turman and Gill bordering the Wabash River, Curry, Hamilton and Haddon in the middle row, and Jackson, Cass and Jefferson on the east. Records are incomplete as to their organization due to the burning of the Court House in 1850.

Haddon Township might well be the first to be organized having been a part of Knox prior to 1816. The first family, James Ledgerwood, arrived from Kentucky in 1803. John Hadden in 1806 from Virginia and Thomas Holder in 1807.

Agriculture is the main interest, although one of Sullivan Counties thriving industries, Midwest Homes, is located in Haddon Township. Carlisle is its business center and thought to be the oldest town in the county.

Curry Township adjoins Vigo County on the north. It is said to be one of the earliest townships organized. In the year 1817, perhaps earlier, William Curry came from Kentucky. Agriculture could only be considered a natural after the forests were cleared. Coal mining eventually added to the wealth of the region. Some of the early names of prominence were Wm. Carrithers, Wm. Julian from Ohio, Nelson Sines of Kentucky, Liston, Ridgeway and Cummins. The Township can be proud of two good towns—Shelburn and Farmersburg.

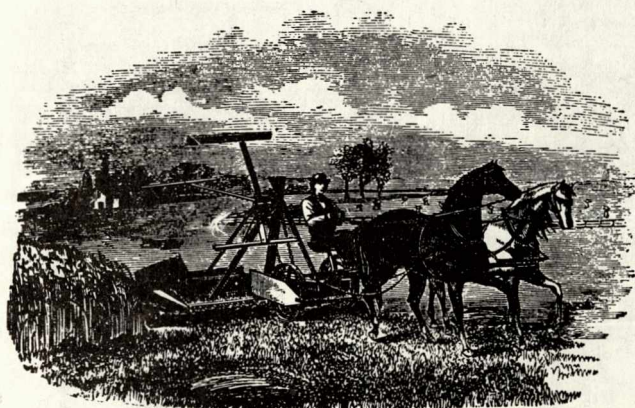
Gill Township received its name from Wm. Gill from Tennessee. Other names were: Canary, Webb, Burnett, French, White and Hughs. Agriculture, Saw Mills, Grist Mills, even distilling were the main business activities. Gill had the added distinction of the bluffs, a college at Merom, an academy at New Lebanon and in the early days the Port of Entry on the river at Merom and the county seat.

Turman Township, bordering the Wabash, has a noted landmark—Turman Creek. It was originally a township of flood land, prairie and wood land. Levies were built to protect the flood lands, the prairies are fertile and the cleared farms are quite productive. It developed one of the best consoli-

dated schools. Virginia, New York, Kentucky and North Carolina were represented in early arrivals. Family names were Benjamin, Turman, Gray, Jewell, Cushman, Rundell, Davis and Morin. Graysville is the only village.

Cass Township was formed from Jackson and Haddon Townships in 1850. First officers were John Maxwell, John G. McBride, James A. McGill, John Wilson and William M. Moss. The first land entry was in the name of William Pugh and the first farmer was Thomas Neely from eastern Tennessee. Other early arrivals were James Pigg in 1828—Joseph Neely, Morgan Gambill, Phillip Usrey and Johnny Maxwell. Dugger is the business center for Cass citizens.

Coal mining was the main industry. However good use was made of the agricultural possibilities especially for growing food for home consumption.



Fairbanks Township boasts the first local election at the home of Elias Moore, to elect a Justice of the Peace. Names mentioned are Joseph Ransford, Sr., James Pogue, James Drake, Joseph Liston, Hezekiah Riggs, and Archibold Parker. Fairbanks Township has been ranked as the richest in agricultural potential. The village of Fairbanks is the center for business activity. Indian mounds, three miles southeast of the village indicate some very early Indian history.

Jackson Township occupies the northeast corner of the County. Organization took place about 1825. Names of early settlers mentioned are Brown, Hinkle, Wood, Thomas, Halberstadt, McCammon, Becketts, Pattons, Baldrige, Ridgeway. Hymera is the business center. Coal mining and agriculture have been the means of creating wealth.

Hamilton was the last to become settled. The first settler named was Christian Canary, wife and children under the date 1816. Other names of new-comers were Charles Scott, Robert Polk and Moses Milam. Other names—Ingle, McCreary, McClellan, Marlow, Thomas, Allen, Liston Nesbit and many others. By 1842 the town of Sullivan became the county seat. The main economic activity was agriculture and coal mining. It has considerable potential.

ATWOOD'S MARKET

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Sullivan, Ind.

Music, News and Weather

"Every Day is
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Mothers Cookies

WELCOME TO SULLIVAN COUNTY

1816 SESQUICENTENNIAL 1966

Population—19, 167

Surrounding area population

In 25 miles— 140,000

In 50 miles— 550,000

In 100 miles—2,450,000



CLIMATE

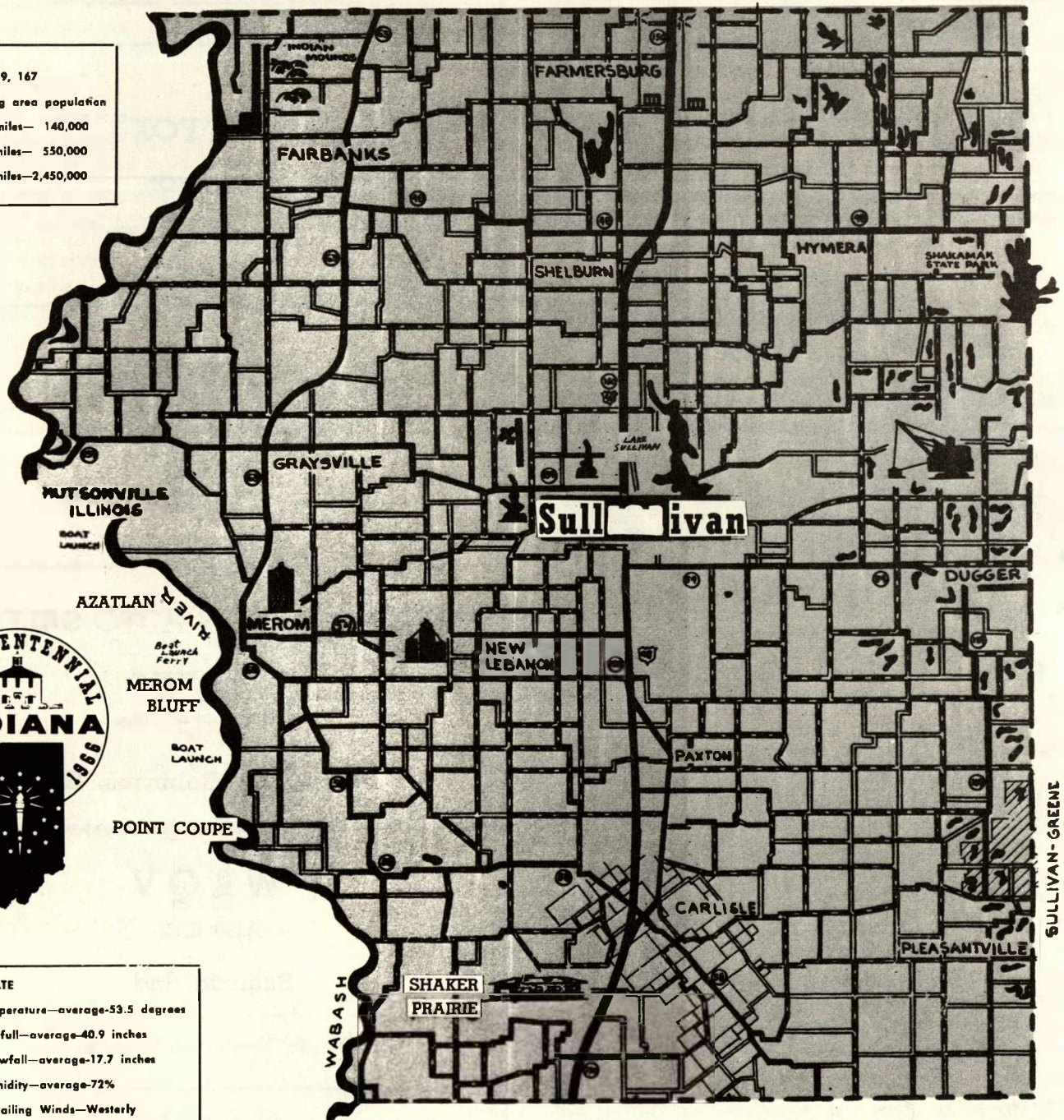
Temperature—average-53.5 degrees

Rainfall—average-40.9 inches

Snowfall—average-17.7 inches

Humidity—average-72%

Prevailing Winds—Westerly



COMPLIMENTS OF THE SULLIVAN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Jefferson Township was created in 1854 out of territory that was a part of Haddon Township. It is said that timber suitable for building homes was not plentiful without going many miles. The agricultural potential is less than in other townships but the hardy settlers made the most of their potential. Fruit growing has become a specialty of some. Coal mining has been a source of wealth. To quote "Some day this rich field of the useful mineral will make Jefferson as independent of all other sources of wealth as some sections of Pennsylvania." Pleasantville is the business center. Names prominent in the early days were Beck, Reid, Hinkle, Mayfield, Bedwell, O'Haver, Enochs, Harvey, and Woodward.



MEROM, INDIANA HISTORICAL SKETCH

Merom was created by an Act of the legislature—the Act forming Sullivan County and to be from and, after January 15, 1817. It also stated that Isaac Montgomery and William Herrington of Gibson County, John B. Drennon and Andrew Purcell of Knox County and James G. Reed of Daviess County be and are hereby appointed Commissioners, whose duty it shall be, on notice to repair to the house of James Sproale in said new county on the 20th day of February, 1817 and proceed to fix the seal of justice for the said county of Sullivan. This they did and fixed upon the high bluffs on the Wabash as the site for the new county seat.

This site was then plotted into lots by Messrs. Hughes and White, with the proviso that every sixth lot should belong to them. The property was turned over to the County Agent and a sale was held on August 14, 1817. A square was set aside in the center of the town for the court house. A log court house was built and was ready to become the official county seat on January 1, 1819. At the time there were about twenty houses in the town and a number of businesses were set up and the town began to slowly grow. The town was incorporated in 1819 and town officers were elected and a tax levied on the lots in town. A number of notices of sale of lots for failure to pay these taxes were published in the Vincennes Sun.

A Sesquicentennial Salute

SULLIVAN DAILY TIMES

Sullivan County's Oldest Daily Newspaper

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Successor to Sullivan Democrat
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Eleanor Poynter Jamison, Publisher, 1950-1966

Dan L. Parker, Managing Editor

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Tennis Funeral Home

SULLIVAN, INDIANA

A number of lawyers and others came to Merom because of its being the county seat and court sessions were held there.

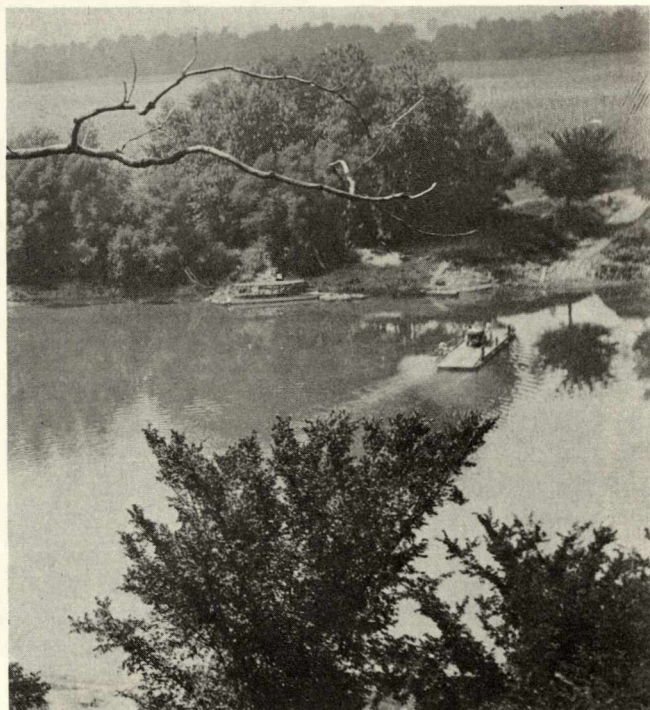
Its chief business was that of pork packing with two packing plants under the bluff along the river and the packed pork was shipped by flat boat and steam boats down the river and on to New Orleans.

About 1855-56 an academy was established by Rev. E. W. Humphrey and this became the forerunner of Union Christian College—which was incorporated in 1859 and began to teach in September, 1860. The college building was not ready for use until 1861 and school was held in the old court house—which had been used by the academy.

Agitation by residents in the eastern part of the county had caused the county seat to be moved to a new town in the center of the county in 1842, and the court house was then used as a residence of the O'Boyles and for school purposes by the Academy and then the college.

The one outstanding business of the town through most of this time was the Merom Bluff Mills run by the Cushman family.

With the passing of the college in 1936, the Merom Institute took over and has been the major influence in the town since that time.



POINTS OF INTEREST

MEROM, INDIANA

FORT AZATLAN

Fort Azatlan is located in the northwest corner of Merom, overlooking the Merom Bluffs. The site first chosen by the Mound Builder Indians probably about 1000 BC or a little later. The site was well chosen for fortification. It was situated on a two hundred foot high sandstone bluff to the west facing the Wabash River and surrounded by deep ravines on the north and south. To the east had been built an embankment for protection.

The mound has been excavated and found to be burial grounds for three races of Indians, since there were three levels of burials and each of different characteristics (Mound Builder and later savage Indians.)

On excavating they found several depressions ranging from five to twenty-five feet in diameter, and in them were found bones of animals, shells, weapons and pottery. In the burial vaults were found skeletons and coffins of stone slabs. In one coffin were found the skeletons of two infants.

HARRISON TRAIL

In October of 1811 Harrison was on the march to Tippecanoe. He passed through Merom and set up a hospital camp in Merom. It is believed that two of his soldiers died here and were buried in the old Merom cemetery about three-fourths of a mile southeast of Merom.

PORT OF MEROM

During the period of 1830 to 1859, Merom was the port of entry for Sullivan County to Vincennes. It was the most important town between Vincennes and Terre Haute in 1842. Merom was also the headquarters for a fleet of flatboats, used for importing and exporting, and was the chief commercial center of Sullivan County until 1842.

THE TURMAN FORT

This fort stood approximately one-half mile west of the Turman's Prairie or Mann Cemetery, in Turman Township, about one mile east of the Wabash River. The farm is now owned by Mrs. Martha Durham Hayes, of Bloomington, Illinois, great-great-granddaughter of Benjamin Turman.

It was built in 1812 by Benjamin Turman when he brought his family to Indiana from Virginia. It was stockade type, built around a rectangular center area, with a fort or look-out building on each of the four corners.

It was not lived in continuously, but used as a refuge from Indians in the area when they were known to be unfriendly. It was used by other settlers than the Turman family for this purpose also.

Farmers plowing the field where it stood still unearth pieces of its timbers.

Gill Telephone Co.
Shelburn Telephone Co.
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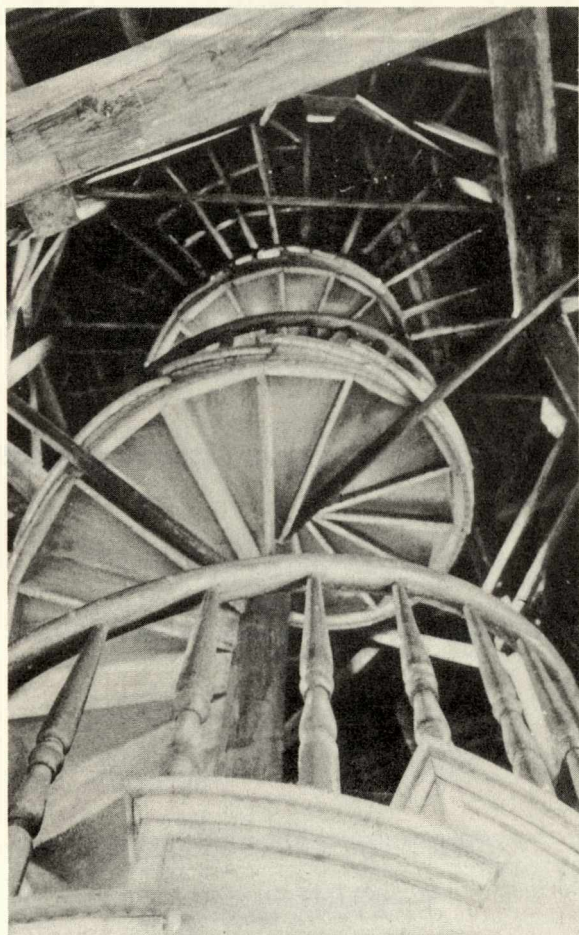
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MEROM INSTITUTE

MEROM, INDIANA

Founded in 1936



Historic All-Wooden Spiral Staircase

Merom Institute, the successor to Union Christian College, is a Camp, Conference, Retreat, and Community Center.

It is both a creator of program opportunities and a facility for programs.

While the Institute is an arm of the United Church of Christ, use of its facilities is available to groups of all denominations, as well as civic, service, educational, and social organizations.

Merom Institute, both a Place and a Spirit, extends its promise of support to the Merom Community in all its Community improvement efforts.

Rev. Donald R. Scott, Director

Merom-Sullivan County Se

SATURDAY -

12:30—Opening Parade

3:00—Speaker

3:30—Variety of Musical Groups

SUNDAY -

11:00—Union Worship Service in the Tent
Dr. Frederick Roblee,
Exe. Director Ill. Council Churches

12:30—Chicken Barbeque

2:00—Memorial Services and Parade—
Sponsored and conducted by the
American Legion Post No. 362
6111 Twp.

MONDAY -

1:30—Speedboat Races—Sanctioned by
the Indiana Outboard Association

Hydroplane

Classes A B C D E

Runabout

Classes A B C D E



esquicentennial Program

— MAY 28

- 5:00—Chicken Barbecue
- 6:30—Social Hour
- 8:00—Exhibition Square Dancing

— MAY 29

- 3:30—Speaker
- 4:00—Quartets and other Vocal Groups
- 5:00—Chicken Barbecue
- 6:00—Concert by the Terre Haute Shrine Band
- 8:00—Indiana Theater Company of Indiana University presents the play "U.S.A."

— MAY 30

- 5:00—Parachute Jump—Ski Hi Sky Divers of Bloomington, Indiana
- 5:30—Chicken Barbecue
- 6:00—
- 8:00—Sycamore Players of Indiana State University presents the Play "The Rainmaker."



Miss Nancy Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. F. Johnson, is crowned 1961 Miss Indiana Pork Queen by Earl L. Butz, Purdue University, Dean of Agriculture.

JOHNSON FARMS

Johnson Farms Hampshire Breeding Herd was established in 1913 by the late Ferd H. Johnson. Hampshire breeding animals have been produced and sold since that time. In 1941 Wm. F. Johnson took over the herd and actively showed and produced prize winning hogs until 1959. At that time an S.P.F. Herd was secured, the herd closed and emphasis was put on producing healthy, fast gaining Hamps with Certification and Feed conversion information.

We sell Hampshire boars and gilts, both certified and non-certified, mostly to commercial producers who wish to produce top quality market animals. In recent years animals have been sold into seven states.

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Merom, Indiana

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of the Merom Community
for a very Successful
Sesquicentennial Celebration

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MILLS AND DISTILLERIES

The first saw mill was owned by the Bennett Brothers in 1818. It was located on Turtle Creek near the French Settlement. A gristmill was attached to it in 1819.

James O'Boyle operated the most extensive still northwest of Merom. They produced fifteen to twenty barrels of whiskey a day and retailed it at eighteen cents per gallon.

In 1845 Cushman and Huff built a sawmill on the corner of Walnut and Fifth Streets. In 1846 a gristmill was added to it.

LINDSEY ISLAND

(The Island Served as a Thief's Stronghold)

In 1860 Paul Lindsey stopped in Merom where he selected the lowest and worst people in the country as his associates. He married a woman of low character noted for her size, immense strength and terrible temper. Paul organized his associates into a gang of thieves and terrized the country.

They moved to the Island, in the Wabash River just below the bluffs, which was considered as neither in the state of Indiana nor Illinois. The law could not touch him. A group of citizens banded together one Sunday morning, invaded his island stronghold, broke up the band of thieves and disposed of Paul Lindsey.

POINT COUPE

(Sight of Only Naval Battle on Wabash River)

During the American Revolution, the area west of the Appalachian Mountains and east of the Mississippi River was secured for the United States by George Rogers Clark. One battle that Clark fought that is almost forgotten was the river battle at Point Coupe, about four miles below Merom, Indiana.

A relief column was sent out by the British in Detroit to retake Fort Sackville from the Americans. The column was made up of rafts and canoes. The rafts were armed with cannons. Clark, on hearing of the army coming down the river, sent Captain Busseron up the Wabash to meet the enemy. Captain Busseron took with him many of the backwood's sharpshooters that helped Clark take Vincennes. Near Merom they built rafts and mounted guns on them. The sharpshooters took up positions along the river. In the battle that took place, the sharpshooters inflicted heavy casualties to the British. The Americans were able to destroy or capture all of the British supplies.

A cannon ball was recently found near the site of this engagement.

MEROM BLUFF CHAUTAUQUA

The Merom community has been very fortunate to have a natural setting noted for scenic beauty. It has been no less fortunate in that it has been a cultural center for more than a century. Union Christian College brought in educators, religious leaders and many people interested in the arts.

In the year 1904 three citizens of the community had a dream—why not broaden the cultural base and bring the people of all ages an opportunity to glimpse a wider world of culture and information. These men were George Bickness, Dr. J. J. Parker, and John L. Pleasant. As a result of their labors, an organization was formed to promote what was later widely known as the Merom Bluff Chautauqua. A Winona Lake organization had pioneered in introducing the chautauqua movement in the state of Indiana. Eventually, there were four or five permanent chautauquas in the state, among which the Merom Bluff Chautauqua was the largest.



The first session of eight days was held in August of 1905. The usual length of sessions from that time on was ten days. But these were ten days crammed full of high quality entertainment and lectures on the widest range of subject matter.

In earlier days, which may be called horse and buggy days, families came from miles to tent on the bluff park. There was a period of years when the park was city of tents requiring special services by the organization for the safety and comfort of the guests.

Boats were provided on the river to transport those who came by rail to Riverton on the I.C. or to Hutsonville on the Big Four. The streets of the town were usually well filled up with horse drawn vehicles and cars. But as cars and radios increased in number, chautauqua attendance decreased. After some thirty years, it was no longer possible to adequately finance the high standards which had characterized the movement. But while it lasted, it provided a high quality of entertainment and a wealth of intellectual stimulation.



Sherell, Sr.

Happy
Birthday
Sullivan
County

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FEED &
SUPPLY CO.**

through the
years



Sherell, Jr.

In 1914 Charles W. Johnson, of Linton, Indiana, established the Johnson Hatchery & Breeding Farms. Charlie Johnson became one of the first men in southwestern Indiana to make a living solely from raising eggs. He worked closely with Purdue University and gained a wide reputation as an expert. Back in those early days, people would feed the kind of feed that Charlie Johnson fed because they had faith in his knowledge. Although the Johnson Feed & Supply Co. has undergone many changes, one policy has prevailed for more than 50 years . . . the Johnsons must know that the feed they manufacture and sell is best for their customers. Like Charles Johnson, the present generations proved their feeds on their experimental farm at Sullivan.

Sherell W. Johnson, the present senior partner in the Johnson Feed & Supply Co., after attending Indiana University and Wabash Business College, started in the poultry and feed business in 1932 with his father. In 1944 Sherell W. Johnson purchased the Kerlin Mill & Elevator Corporation at Sullivan, Indiana. Modern feed processing and grain handling equipment was installed. From 1944 to the present time three additional warehouses have been added to the Mill & Elevator. The total grain storage capacity is now 225,000 bushels.

Sherell W. Johnson operated as a sole proprietorship until 1951, when he took in his then minor (14 year old) son, Sherell W. Johnson, Jr., as a partner. Sherell, Jr. graduated from Indiana University School of Business with honors in 1959. He became active in the business on a full-time basis upon his graduation from I.U., except for one year's active duty as an officer in the Army.

For many years feed manufacturing, with distribution principally through company-owned stores, was the principal operation. Recently bulk feed distribution methods and other technological changes have altered the complexion of the company's activities. The company has placed greater emphasis on building up a complete Farm service center in Sullivan. In 1958 Johnson's established their experimental farm, working particularly with hogs. In March of 1966 Johnson's purchased the business of the Armour Fertilizer Plant at New Lebanon in order to offer farmers a most complete Plant Food service.

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The band was always well received. It gave three concerts each day. Morning programs were devoted to Bible lectures, children's activities and frequently farmers' groups.

Afternoons were given over to lectures, special entertainment and group activities. Evening programs were composed of operettas, lectures, theater and a few attempts at grand opera. It was a common comment of guests "I came here for ten days of rest and now I must go home and rest from this ten days of activity." It was a pleasurable task to keep up with Dr. McIllyer Lichliter's lectures on religious themes. And there was always heavy intellectual fare in the afternoon and evening programs.

Outstanding names represent many fields of endeavor. Evangelists—Sam Jones and Billy Sunday; statesmen—Warren Harding, Champ Clark, W. J. Bryan; many congressmen, senators, and



Board of Directors of the Chautauqua in the early 1900's—probably around 1909—in front of their headquarters tent. Left to right: Dr. James Miles, Emery Setzer, Unknown, Dr. J. J. Parker, Henry Ladd, Dr. G. R. Hammond, A. P. Coyner, Unknown, George McNabb.

governors; educators; ministers; grand opera stars; a debate on the League of Nations with Senator Hitchcock for and Senator James Watson against; and many others.

But this is a heritage for the people of southwestern Indiana which should not be forgotten, and visiting the spot where all this took place should be an inspiration.

The good that derived from Union Christian College may be fully appreciated by considering the geographical and idealistic background of the institution.

The following is a quote from an article written by Dr. C. B. Hershey, President from 1915-1922. "Any field may be converted into a college campus, but some seem especially designed as a location for college buildings, walks, drives, and all the many trimmings of completed grounds. The campus of Union Christian College was not made from the only acres available for such purposes, but certainly there were unusual advantages on the high bluffs overlooking the Wabash River and the Illinois prairies. The founders of the college desired to give academic seclusion and freedom from the maddening crowd for the educational and moral development of the young men and women entering Union Christian College for study. The selection of location is evidence of their wisdom. . . . The outstanding asset is not its buildings but its location. . . . The place is delightful and inspiring. . . . As the years pass and distances are annihilated, the village and college on the high bluff . . . will come into their own and will be more highly appreciated as a place for rest, recreation, and the pursuit of knowledge."

The idealistic background. The men who dreamed this dream were interested in Christian education, moral growth, improvement of the church. Many of them were representatives of the Christian Church (referred to as the New Light branch), comparatively small in membership, with its strength centered in the mid-western states. The church had no fixed doctrine. It taught that the individual had a right to his own interpretation of the Scriptures as a basis for belief and practice, that the individual church had the right to govern itself. These men, by selling this idea of a college to the conferences of Indiana and Illinois, brought about denominational sponsorship for the founding of the college. The school was to be coeducational. For that day and time, it was indeed a broad and liberal approach to the problem of higher education.

The proposition was presented to the Western Indiana Conference in 1858. Favorable action was taken, a committee was appointed to determine location for the new college. Representatives of six different locations were pressing for action, the six being Sullivan, Richmond, Kokomo, Lebanon, Peru, and Merom. On May 17, 1859, the committee selected the Merom location. Three factors seem to have determined their decision. No. 1. The Merom

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TOWARD MAKING THE
SULLIVAN COUNTY
SESQUICENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION**

TINDALL'S

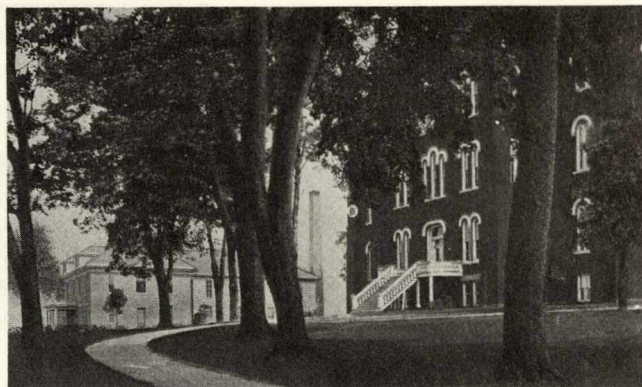
5 & 10

**SULLIVAN,
INDIANA**

donation was the largest by some ten to fifteen thousand dollars. No. 2. The natural setting of the Merom location. No. 3. The location was more central as respecting the states of Indiana and Illinois.

Various steps were taken in the month of July, 1858 to complete incorporating. A board of trustees was formed and by August 23, 1859 the executive committee of the board contracted with G. W. Webster of Marion for the construction of the building. After one hundred years plus, the building stands strong and sturdy, testifying to the honesty in workmanship, devotion and thoroughness of those who performed that task.

The first executive committee was composed of Thomas Kearnes, A. W. Sanford, N. G. Buff, A. R. Heath, James Reed. Some other supporters were Michael Weider, David Hayes, J. N. Halstead, E. W. Humphrey, John T. Phillips, George Abbott, L. Shoemaker, James B. Mann, James H. O'Boyle, J. B. Harper, Hiram Daugherty, T. B. Springer, Seth Cushman and David Cushman.



The college opened its doors in September, 1860. Classes were conducted in the old court house which had been used by the Merom Academy and which was later used by the public school. Construction of College Hall extended over a period of two years, with dedication ceremonies taking place on Christmas day of 1863.

The presidents served in the following order: Dr. N. Summerbell, eight years; Dr. Thomas Holmes, ten years; Dr. T. C. Smith, six years; Dr. Elisha Mudge, three years; Dr. L. J. Aldridge, eighteen years; Dr. C. J. Jones, two years; Dr. O. B. Whitaker, four years; Dr. D. A. Long, four years; Dr. W. C. B. Hershey, seven years; Dr. W. S. Alexander, from June 1922 to June 1924 when the Board of Trustees ordered suspension of operations. Three times an interim had been filled by a member of the faculty as acting president; Prof. D. J. Evans; Prof. B. F. McHenry; Dr. G. R. Hammond.

The problem of life or death for the college was discussed many times during the last two years of its operation. The Board had authorized an endowment campaign in 1921, hoping to bring the

amount of endowment to the level required for accreditation. The campaign was successful. However, without fore-warning and right in the midst of the depression of the early 1920s, the accrediting agency boosted the minimum requirements by one hundred fifty percent. The Board decided the task of continuing the endowment campaign in light of the depressed state of the economy, was hopeless. So, at the close of the academic year in June 1924, it was decided to close the doors, still hoping, that at some future time, improved circumstances would make it possible to resume operations.

A Mr. Bricker and associates leased the physical plant and opened a school to teach technical subjects in 1927. But the effort failed in the course of a few months. Twice in the late 1920s and early 1930s negotiations were conducted with Presbyterian groups but without tangible results.

MEROM INSTITUTE

MEROM INSTITUTE was incorporated in February of 1936, about 12 years after the closing of Union Christian College. The persons forming the original corporation represented the Congregational-Christian Conferences of Indiana and Illinois, Chicago Theological Seminary, and the National Congregational Church Extension Board, Council for Social Action, and Education Society. The membership of the governing Board of Trustees has since enlarged to include representation from the Merom community. The forming of this corporation was the result of the labor and vision of many persons, but especially of the Rev. Simon Bennett and the Rev. Clarence Bennett of the Indiana Congregational Christian Conference and Dr. Arthur E. Holt of Chicago Theological Seminary.

As these many persons began to think of the possibilities for using the old facilities of Union Christian College, they set forth the following object for the newly formed Institute. Its object is to establish and maintain at Merom an institution of learning in fellowship with the Congregational-Christian Churches and providing research and in-



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struction, social service and recreation especially for the help and stimulation of pastors and lay workers in rural churches and communities, looking forward toward a more just and Christian Social order. They later enlarged this objective to say that the Institute shall include in its purview and purpose concern for and cooperation with churches and church members of the United Church of Christ to assist them in the enrichment of their life and work, and to express in its own program and the use of its facilities a proper concern of the church with the community and the culture.

To carry out the above purposes, the Institute has enlarged in a variety of program ventures. In the early years of its existence it had a large extension Service. This service took many forms, from recreational guidance to the Modern Circuit Riders. The latter was an attempt to take to the churches in a given region outstanding church leaders in various fields to try to strengthen the program and outreach of the local churches. Another vital part of the program emphasis was service to the local community. This also took many forms, including a laundry service similar to the modern laundromats, a town cooperative, a skating rink in the gym, etc. A third vital phase of the program was the provision of facilities for camps, conferences, and retreats. This included week-long summer camps for the youth in the churches, schools for pastors, and an Inter-Seminary Rural Life Conference with field trips for students studying for the pastoral ministry. While the program has changed greatly through the years, the Institute is still very active as a community center and as a camp, conference, and retreat center. Its program has tried to reflect the changing times in which we live. In 1957, it entered into an experimental program known as the Merom Renewal Project. This was an attempt to combine the ex-





tension and retreat type of program in aiding churches and individuals to RENEW their commitment to Christ and their dedication to service within their communities. We are currently anticipating program ventures on both the retreat and extension level.

The Institute has made use of the facilities of Union Christian College, replacing the dormitory which burned in 1939, with a new dining hall, known as Holt Hall. Also added to the facilities are cabins, built in the early 1940's, a swimming pool built in 1957, an outdoor worship center, and three homes. The old College Hall building was extensively renovated in 1963-64.

The Institute has had four directors since its beginning: the Rev. Clarence Bennett, the Rev. Shirley Greene, the Rev. Alan Jones, and the Rev. Donald Scott.



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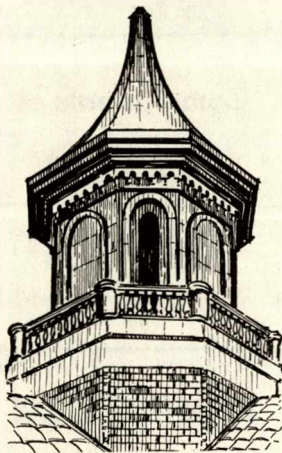
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THE ECUMENICAL CENTER OF RENEWAL AND PLANNING

Merom, Indiana



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Ecumenical Center of Renewal and Planning was incorporated in the State of Indiana as a not for profit corporation in August 1963. It began its program officially in January 1964.

The Center Board is composed of two representatives from each cooperating church body. These persons, nominated by the group which they represent, are elected by the Center Board. They meet at the Center at least twice a year to review progress, share reports, and set goals and objectives. They determine the policy of the Center and report regularly to the group which they officially represent.

Groups presently active and supporting the Ecumenical Center of Renewal and Planning are:

- AMERICAN BAPTIST CONVENTION
- CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
- CHRISTIAN CHURCHES
(Disciples of Christ)
- EVANGELICAL UNITED BRETHREN
- THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
MENNONITE CHURCH
- METHODIST CHURCH
- PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S.
- PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
- REFORMED CHURCH OF AMERICA
- UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
- UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
- NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
- ILLINOIS COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
- INDIANA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
- MEROM INSTITUTE

An Advisory Council, composed of ten persons elected by the Board, meets with the Board and contributes data helpful in decision making.

THE ECUMENICAL CENTER OF RENEWAL AND PLANNING

Progress and change have always marked the developments in the United States. The effects of change on small communities brought about by industrialization became the concern of many Christian denominations as early as 1910. Following the establishment of the American Country Life Association by Theodore Roosevelt in 1908, many denominations organized special departments to meet the needs of a changing rural America. At first these departments were called "Rural Church Departments" and later "Town and Country Departments." Today, the emphasis is moving to a more inclusive term, involving both urban and rural, in what is becoming commonly known as "Church and Community."

There are several ways in which denominations have sought to cooperate. One way has been through the National Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches. In the Department of the Church in Town and Country of the Division of Home Missions of the National Council of Churches, representatives of many denominations have considered ways in which they could mutually share in making studies of community needs, training leadership, working with migrants and minority groups, and providing program materials. National meetings have been held every four years where such vital issues as poverty, racial tensions, and market inequities have been considered cooperatively by the churches. As a result, there has been a better understanding of the goals and purposes of each separate group and a growing determination to work to find solutions to the problems which have been caused by rapid change.

In 1961 conversations were begun by leaders of several denominations responsible for community concerns at which time questions as this were faced: "What more can we do to find solutions to our problems?" "Is there a way in which we can cooperate in scientific research and experimentation?" "What is the task God is calling us to do in our day?" "What shall be our response to Jesus Christ, our common Lord?"

Additional conversations were held in 1962 and in January, 1963, agreement was reached to proceed to establish an ecumenical center for the purpose of finding ways of making the Christian Gospel more relevant in the lives of people and in helping to initiate sound planning on a cooperative basis. They further agreed to seek financial support for the experiment. When they met again in June, 1963, they had firm pledges to support a joint work for a three-year period.

On the basis of this agreement, the following purpose for an ecumenical center was formulated: "The purpose of the Center shall be to seek under the leading of the Holy Spirit means of discovering and implementing a more effective relevance of the Christian Gospel in the lives of God's peo-

ple and in the structures and programs of the churches in town and country."

The Ecumenical Center was incorporated in August, 1963, under the laws of the State of Indiana with a Board of Directors composed of two representatives from each sponsoring group. It accepted the invitation by Merom Institute to establish the base of operation in the renovated College Building and work there began January 1, 1964. Keene R. Lebold was asked to become the director and Donald W. Zimmerman was called to be the associate director.

The staff works with people interested in building better communities both locally and related to the larger world. Discussions in the local communities and conferences and retreats at the Center are designed to lead toward renewal, planning, and adjustment. These activities have become the very heart of the Center program.

In April, 1965, the Board of Directors took affirmative action to continue the work of the Center indefinitely beyond the three-year period and decided to continue the work at Merom.

Sullivan County R.E.M.C. was organized July 28, 1938, by a group of interested local people. The first lines were energized on December 23, 1939.

The present Board is:

Malcolm McClure, President
Guy E. Wolfe, Vice President
Dorlynn Johnson, Secretary
Wilbur Randolph, Treasurer
Leland Phegley
Dewey Barnett
Charles Collins
Robert Medsker
Wilbur Royer
Sid Hale, Manager

R.E.M.C.

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MEROM LODGE NO. 289 F & AM

On December 19, 1860—A. C. Downey, Grand Master of State of Indiana, granted a dispensation to open a regular Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons in the Town of Merom.

On 27 May 1863—the Lodge was granted a charter to hold a Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient Masons to be called Merom Lodge No. 289. On December 11, 1865—the present Lodge building was purchased from N. G. Buff where, with various improvements, Lodge has been held ever since. At one time Merom also had Oddfellows, Modern Woodmen and Redman Lodges.

CHURCHES IN MEROM

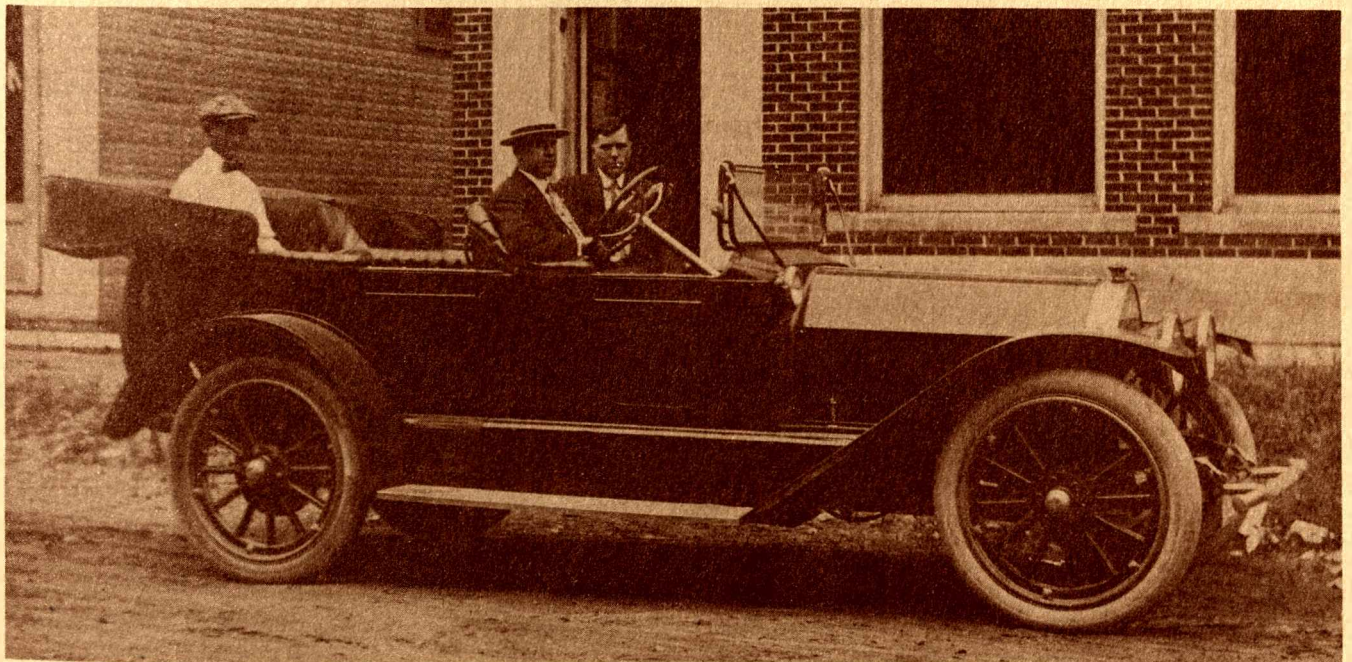
The Methodist Church was founded in or near 1818 as part of the Vincennes Circuit of Peter Cartwright. At first, church was held in various homes. Later a building was erected on what is now part of Merom Bluff. In 1913 the present church building was erected. The Christian Church known as Hadden Chapel was built in connection with Merom College in 1920. Later the Holiness Church was erected and is still active. The Assembly of God built a new church in 1958 and their old church is now used by the Church of Christ.

R C Cola

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Mr. and Mrs. John J. Gettinger—Merom
Mr. and Mrs. Sam Andrews—Merom
Mr. and Mrs. Emil "Bill" Coyner—Merom
Mr. and Mrs. George E. Taylor—Sullivan
Mr. and Mrs. Rex E. Daugherty—Merom
Gerald Sparks—Merom
Mr. and Mrs. Don Stewert—Merom
Mr. and Mrs. Al Gettinger—Merom
Mr. and Mrs. Jake McCammon—Sullivan
John M. McKinney—Merom
Mr. and Mrs. Fallis Ward—Merom
Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. Pirtle—Sullivan
Olan Vickrey—Merom
Mr. and Mrs. Gault Pleasant—Merom
Dr's Dukes—Dugger
Jack Mankin—Terre Haute
Mr. and Mrs. Reece Anderson—Sullivan
Patton Appliance—Sullivan
Jewell & Moore—Sullivan
Mr. and Mrs. George Gettinger—Sullivan
K. B. Smith—Sullivan
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Coulson—Sullivan
Dr. Brown—Cariisle
Wayne Pierce—Sullivan
Atkinson Ice Co.—Sullivan
Rhinehart G.E. Service—Sullivan

Ann Shorter—Sullivan
Mr. and Mrs. Rea Hoilman—Merom
Mr. and Mrs. James R. Gettinger—Merom
Mr. and Mrs. Francis Goodman—Merom
Barbara Anderson—Sullivan
Dr. Daugherty—Hutsonville
Mr. and Mrs. John D. Gettinger—Sullivan
Mr. and Mrs. Lowel Turpin—Merom
Mr. and Mrs. Bill McKinney—Merom
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Wible—Merom
Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. Roseberry—Sullivan
Mr. and Mrs. Earl Johnson—Merom
Mr. and Mrs. Russel Smith—Merom
Delano Copeland—Merom
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stultz—Merom
Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Daugherty—Merom
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Rotramel—Sullivan
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald McKain—Merom
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Arnett—Sullivan
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Reichenback
—Sullivan
Mr. and Mrs. Don Houpt—Palestine, Ill.
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Trubak—Merom
Herman Jones Farms, Inc.—Merom
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Turpin—Merom
Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Nichols



1816—1966

MEROM-SULLIVAN COUNTY SESQUICENTENNIAL

WHEN THE SUN SETS

OVER MEROM

*When the sun sets over Merom,
There's a hush upon the land
Just as if the harvest meadows
Felt the touch of God's own hand.
Now the Wabash is a mirror
For a moment turned to gold.
There's a miracle at Merom
For the whole world to behold.*

*When the sun sets over Merom
Children pause upon the bluff,
And they feel with so much beauty
That the world is not enough.
For they catch a glimpse of heaven
In the skies that open wide,
To send a gift of loveliness
Across the countryside.*

*When the sun sets over Merom,
I must drop my tasks and go
To the edge of Indiana
Where the Wabash waters flow,
For I know that peace awaits me
And the picture is alight
In God's sunset benediction
Over Merom every night.*

by ANN CAMPBELL